

## Lost on campus? There's an app for that

Ileiren Poon

The University of Alberta is going mobile. A new app for iPhones, iPods and iPads is now available for free, which can help make life a little easier for students as they start the new school year.

Offering help in everything from finding your way across campus to navigating through the maze of assignment due dates and class schedules, the U of A app was developed by students for students. Three third-year computing science students, Joel Kravets, Sahir Memon and Clinton Pahl, spent the summer working with the campus Academic Information and Communication Technologies office to craft the program.

"The only thing we added was a bit of structure—having a project plan, having tentative timelines, methodologies—things we could do to support their innovation," said Mike Chow from AICT about working with the students. "No one other than a student can truly understand what other students need and where this app can help minimize a bit of the pain and suffering."

"We studied what other institutions were offering in this type of app, to give ourselves a sort of baseline," said Memon. "We also looked at what we did on a day-to-day basis and tried to decide what we would want to see on this app if we're using it," added Kravets.

With about 6,000 people already using the app, including some from the greater Edmonton community who find the transit information useful, feedback has been positive and helpful, said Trevor Woods, executive director of AICT.

"Part of our strategy was to release something as quickly as possible," said Woods. "The students had a long list of features they really wanted to [incorporate], but decided to go with just the important ones that they could."

*continued on page 3*

## Let there be learning



Michael Holy I Marketing and Communications

The 500-seat lecture hall in the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science was filled in anticipation of the first lecture there Sept. 8.

## 'Father of economic ecology' to receive honorary degree

Folio Staff

Inspired by India's independence in 1947 and driven by a desire to see his country hunger-free, Monkombo Sambasivan Swaminathan has led a global movement in sustainable food security.

In recognition of his efforts over the last half-century, Swaminathan will receive a University of Alberta honorary doctor of science degree on Oct. 7, and deliver the Bentley Lecture in Sustainable Agriculture/Lester Pearson Memorial Lecture that same day.

Swaminathan is a pioneer of the green revolution and a leader in his country when it comes to science and technology said Nat Kav, associate dean of the U of A's Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences.

"His contributions have been in the areas of science, in plant breeding and genetics, followed by taking that science to the level of the farmer and being concerned about gender equity and being concerned about the poorest of the poor. That's what I think makes him stand out," said Kav. "In this day and age, with

climate change and everything else looming and threatening our food security, he has always advocated for sustainable agriculture and what he calls an 'evergreen revolution,' which is not just sustainable today, but for generations beyond."

Swaminathan created an agricultural revolution in India in the 1960s, when he pioneered techniques to crossbreed a dwarf Mexican seed with Japanese seeds and local Indian varieties of wheat. As head of the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines for seven years, Swaminathan and his colleagues then used the same techniques to modify rice seeds with similar results.

In 1972, Swaminathan was one of the founding members of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, an organization set up to help developing countries in semi-arid tropical regions around the world to apply science to increase crop yields and improve farming systems for small farmers. The U of A's own Fred Bentley, for whom the Bentley Lecture in Sustainable Agriculture is named, was the first chair of the

organization's board of governors, a position he held for 10 years. Convinced that true social change must focus on helping the poorest in society, Swaminathan founded the Centre for Research on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development, now the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, where scientists work directly with farmers and their families as true partners and collaborators.

A fellow of the leading scientific academies of India and the world, including the Royal Society of London and the National Academy of Sciences in the United States, Swaminathan co-chaired the United Nations Millennium Task Force on Hunger from 2002 to 2005. He also served as president of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs from 2002 to 2007. He has been called

by the United Nations Environment Programme "the father of economic ecology."

University Chancellor Linda Hughes is delighted to have the opportunity of Swaminathan's visit to bestow the honorary doctorate, noting that, "his legacy reminds all of us of the power of one person to uplift an entire society."

Swaminathan will be speaking on "Food Safety and Security in an Era of Climate Change." The ceremony and lecture will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Myer Horowitz Theatre of the Students' Union Building. ■



Supplied

Monkombo Sambasivan Swaminathan will receive a U of A honorary doctor of science degree Oct. 7.

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# folio

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# Feds strengthen Canada's economic competitiveness

Michael Brown

A major federal government funding announcement geared toward improving facilities and equipment at universities across Canada was made Aug. 26 at the University of Alberta by Gary Goodyear, minister of state (science and technology), while he toured one of the U of A's cutting-edge energy research labs.

Goodyear, together with Peter Goldring, member of parliament for Edmonton East, said the Government of Canada will invest \$200.5 million in the Canada Foundation for Innovation to support infrastructure projects in eligible institutions on a competitive basis across Canada.

"Our government is investing in science and technology to strengthen the economy and improve the quality of life of Canadians," said Goodyear. "This significant investment will help develop, attract and retain the world's best researchers at Canadian universities while strengthening Canada's long-term economic competitiveness."

The funding supports the renewal and expansion of research infrastructure across Canada to attract exceptional researchers and improve labs and facilities, which is a move that U of A President Indira Samarasekera says ensures Canada

and the U of A will remain a destination for the world's top researchers.

"Tomorrow's prosperity depends on our ability to compete within a diverse, global economy—to get there, we need to start with competitive infrastructure," said Samarasekera. "World-class facilities are a magnet for global talent, and these funds make a tremendous difference in researchers' capacity to conduct leading-edge interdisciplinary research and discovery learning."

The funding announcement was made using geotechnical engineering professor Rick Chalaturnyk's Reservoir Geomechanics Research Group lab as a backdrop. Chalaturnyk's lab is due for a \$4.1-million retooling to create the Geomechanical Reservoir Experimental Facility, made possible thanks to CFI and Alberta Advanced Education and Technology. With the new lab in place, Chalaturnyk's team will be better able to investigate carbon storage and enhanced oil recovery, using leading-edge equipment that will give them a better understanding of how carbon dioxide behaves underground under different pressures and temperatures.

"Canada's energy resources, particularly Alberta's large and challenging unconventional resources such as oilsands, coal-bed methane, bitumen carbonates and, more recently, shale

gas have advanced significantly in their potential to provide energy to Canada and world markets," said Chalaturnyk. "The need to protect the environment—to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while recovering these resources in a sustainable manner—will severely test Alberta's ability to meet its and Canada's

own energy needs, expand its export markets and ensure that it obtains maximum value for its resources.

"Our interdisciplinary research efforts centred on the capability embodied in GeoREF will aim to contribute both fundamental and applied science and engineering to meet these significant challenges." ■

## \$1 million for toothsome research

Quinn Phillips

Tarek El-Bialy, professor in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, turned heads when he discovered a special frequency of ultrasound could stop dental roots from shortening during treatment with orthodontic braces. Now his work has caught the attention of a funding agency on the other side of the world.

El-Bialy has been awarded a three-year grant worth more than US\$1 million from the Qatar National Research Foundation to continue his work in dental root regeneration.

"We're very lucky to get this grant," said El-Bialy.

The shortening of the roots of one's teeth is a common problem for people who have braces. Most roots regenerate on their own but in some cases the roots fail to lengthen and the teeth are lost. It's a problem that has plagued orthodontists for years, but El-Bialy believes he's the only one in the world who has focused his research on finding a solution.

"What we've been trying to do over the last five years is to utilize stem cells and ultrasound to regenerate the

lost parts of dental roots," he said.

El-Bialy says the grant will also support the study of the regeneration of bone around teeth that have been damaged and become loose due to gum disease.

The Qatar foundation grants about US\$120 million a year in an effort to promote and drive research in Qatar. Recipients must collaborate with a group in that country and El-Bialy is teaming up with a group of Qatar clinicians who work with patients with gum

disease. "The whole idea is to encourage co-operative research and work between international institutes and the Qatar institutes and help bring more research to that region," explains El-Bialy.

El-Bialy's colleagues in Qatar

are in the process of setting up their lab and they will visit the U of A for training. El-Bialy is expecting to move forward quickly with the research once the Qatar side of the relationship is ready to go.

"We would hope to have pre-clinical data that shows that this technique works," said El-Bialy. "Hopefully by the second year we'll write another grant for another three years to do clinical trials." ■



Tarek El-Bialy



Engineering professor Rick Chalaturnyk (right) fields questions from Gary Goodyear, minister of state (science and technology), during a funding announcement held Aug. 26 at the U of A.

# Internationally focused graduate programs the new norm

Michael Davies-Venn

A two-day international conference on graduate education closed Aug. 27 at the University of Alberta with Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein telling delegates there can be no turning back on how universities in Canada operate their graduate programs.

"International mobility and co-operation are here to stay as permanent features of major university operating plans," Amrhein said concerning the international exposure now demanded from a graduate education. "There can be no return to the traditional model of the national silo process within which universities used to operate. The challenges confronting humanity require that we identify and activate elite talents wherever in the world they may be found."

Those challenges, according to U of A President Indira Samarasekera, include climate change, energy and sustainability, food security and chronic disease.

"These problems require urgent

solutions. It makes sense that we pool resources, join intellectual forces and collaborate across borders to solve global issues," said Samarasekera, who commented that the meeting marked the 40-year anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and China.

**“There can be no return to the traditional model of the national silo process within which universities used to operate.”**

Carl Amrhein

"It's good to have discussions about talents that will sustain both our countries in the coming century."

The meeting, which included a 50-person delegation made up of Chinese government officials and administrators from the country's leading universities, sought to resolve key issues that will increase engagement by Ca-

nadian universities with their Chinese counterparts. There were 150 delegates to the conference.

The Chinese Scholarship Council co-sponsored the two-day conference, which Amrhein says highlighted the interest shared by Canada and China to better facilitate the exchange of graduate students. The council is a government agency tasked with helping place Chinese graduate students around the world and assisting foreign graduate students wishing to study in China.

"Canada needs an agency to translate government policies into action that is embraced by the elite universities of Canada, the G13," Amrhein said, adding that Canada needs to build on the infrastructure put in place by the Tri-Council, which is made up of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. "Canada needs a CSC, the Canada Scholarship Council, and then we could have an international collaboration. It will be useful to build a Canada-China consortium for graduate education,

and the U of A is willing to step up to this plate."

Recommendations from the meeting for strengthening Canadian and Chinese university ties include offering short courses for Chinese undergraduate students and more research internships for Canadian and Chinese undergraduate students; enhancing information on graduate programs and improving accessibility of programs to students; encouraging and linking teams of research students from both sides with joint supervisions by Chinese and Canadian professors; and offering joint-degree programs.

With close to 2,000 students from China currently studying at the U of A, the university has the largest percentage of Chinese students in Canada, said Britta Baron, associate vice-president, international, at the U of A.

"We are attracting more China Scholarship Council students than any other university in Canada," she says. "We have excellent relationships with a number of our Chinese partners, not only universities but also Chinese organizations such as the Chongqing municipal government." ■



# New centre to be one-stop shop for student success

Michael Brown

Asking for help with a personal or academic issue is hard enough without a student having to navigate their way through a myriad of university support services to find the aid they need.

To remedy the situation, the University of Alberta has opened the Student Success Centre as part of University Student Services. This new unit will consolidate the services provided by Specialized Support and Disability Services, the Academic Support Centre, the Math and Applied Sciences Centre, University Bursaries and Emergency Funding and the Fresh Start Program.

Wendy Doughty, interim director of the Student Success Centre, says

over the past few years, post-secondary institutions have recognized the importance of supporting student success and retention. And although the U of A now provides a long list of support services, Doughty says the Student Success Centre will provide an integrated approach to supporting students by linking them to a range of programs and services based on individual needs.

"For some students, the transition from high school to university proves challenging. For others, during the course of their university studies they may encounter life events that will

impact on their academic focus and success," she said. "The Student Success Centre is here to focus on student success and engagement."

By working in an integrated manner, Doughty says University Student Services will be better able to reduce the overlap. "What we've learned is that it is not uncommon for students that are working within one area may be accessing or could benefit from services offered elsewhere."

As an example, if a student who has been required to withdraw from the university because of a low grade-point average shows up at the doors of the

**"We are taking more of a triage approach [for dealing with student issues]."**

Wendy Doughty

Fresh Start Program, Doughty says perhaps that student may need some additional support to be successful on exams, or may be dealing with personal problems and need to talk to counselling services.

"We are taking more of a triage approach," said Doughty. "Whether the student comes into my office or comes into the Academic Support Centre or any other point in student services, we'll be able to do a quick assessment and say, 'yes, you're here for this, but is there anything else we can support you with in terms of the services we offer students.'"

To help that expediency, all services and programs are now clustered on the second floor of the Students' Union Building, with the exception of University Bursaries and Emergency Funding

(1-80 SUB) and the Transition Year Program, which will remain in the Aboriginal Student Services Centre.

"This reorganization involves cross-training of staff so each staff member has a common level of understanding of the services provided by the different units," said Doughty. "The Student Success Centre is not a staff model. We want working with the Students' Union to provide seamless integration of the supports they provide to students success as well."

"We want to start giving the message to students that attending the U of A is more than just a degree you're achieving and success is more than just getting a piece of parchment, it is about what else did you do at the same time to support your learning, your engagement and your success." ■

## U of A poised to enter top 100 of Shanghai rankings

Folio Staff

The Shanghai Jiao Tong University has once again ranked the University of Alberta fifth in Canada in its annual world university ranking.

According to the latest rankings, the U of A sits on the cusp of the world's top 100 universities at 101, up from last year's placement of 108 of 503 universities worldwide.

"Although the U of A did not break the top-100 threshold in the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Rankings of World Universities, we continue to rise and are now very close at 101," said U of A President Indira Samarasekera. "More significant is

our rise into the top 100 in several specific subject areas, including computer science, economics and business, engineering/technology, life and agricultural sciences and clinical medicine and pharmacy. These subject-area rankings are very rigorous and show that U of A research is having a recognized impact in the global academic community."

The U of A's computing science program was ranked third in Canada and 55th in the world, and the school of business was ranked 89th in the world. The quantitative measures the rankings use include criteria like the number of Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals faculty and staff win; the amount of articles

indexed in major citation indices and the per-capita academic performance of an institution.

The recently released 2010 QS World University Rankings had the U of A ranked 78th overall in the world, 19 spots lower than last year's results. By individual subject, the U of A was ranked 74th in technology and engineering, and 86th in the world in both the natural sciences and life sciences and medicine.

Other Canadian universities to experience double-digit drops in the rankings, as well, include the University of Waterloo, which dropped from 113th in the world to 145th, the Université de Montréal, which moved from 107th to 136th, and

the University of Calgary, which decreased in rank from 149th to 165th.

While important in determining the excellence of the research conducted by faculty at an institution, Samarasekera says the factors that go into the creation of rankings and, thus, the rankings themselves, don't tell the entire story.

"The Shanghai Jiao Tong academic rankings, like other university world rankings, only give a partial measure of a school's performance," she said. "Although these rankings can impact a school's reputation, they give a limited overview of our performance and are only one component of benchmarks we consider." ■

## New U of A App

continued from page 1

"Within three weeks, they had an app that we decided to release."

The app is rated four-out-of-five stars, said Chow, adding his team is still looking for feedback and suggestions on the future evolution of the program.

"We would strongly encourage everyone to provide as much feedback as possible. We're here to try to provide an application that will service the students, and if there's something that students feel would be really useful or improve the services, we want them to let us know," he said, but added that students could expect to become more involved in the process.

"As much as you're sending feedback, you might actually be the one implementing that feature," he said. "This is not just for computing students. A business student could provide guidance in terms that are relevant from a non-technical perspective. A graphic artist could help make the app more aesthetically pleasing. We want to engage as many diverse students as possible."

For the team, the experience has been a positive foray into the work world.

"We learned a whole new skill set and how to operate in a professional software development environment," said Pahl.

"We learned so much about how a project will take off and how it will come together," said Memon. "You figure out how many people you have to rely on, how to manage your time and research, and set up tasks and goals."

"It was an excellent experience." ■

## Research shows Athabasca more polluted than first thought

Brian Murphy

University of Alberta ecologist David Schindler and several colleagues have completed new research showing that Alberta's oilsands industry is releasing more pollutants into the Athabasca River, its tributaries and its watershed than previously estimated.

"This study counters industry and government claims that the pollutants are from natural seepage of bitumen," said Schindler.

Schindler and the research team analyzed 13 elements in river water and snow pack along the Athabasca and its delta. The pollutants found include mercury, arsenic, lead and cadmium. The researchers say the

releases are a clear violation of the federal fisheries act and provincial guidelines for protection of aquatic life.

Schindler says some of the metals interact with organic pollutants, making them more toxic. The combined impact of the toxins on the river is not fully understood.

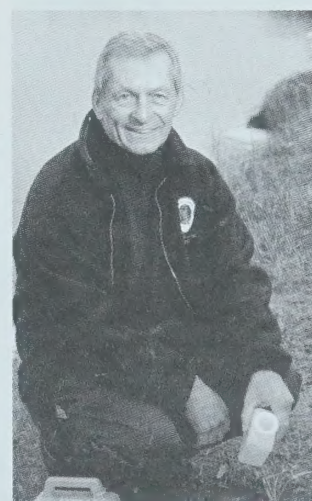
"The industry's Regional Aquatic Monitoring Program and Alberta Environment's monitoring have missed these releases and that's a serious problem," said Schindler. "We've repeatedly questioned RAMP'S findings and nothing has been done."

Schindler says this study focused on toxic elements in the Athabasca, above and below the oilsands upgraders and included analysis of airborne

pollutants in the snowpack. Last year the research team reported on organic pollutants from oilsands development and found carcinogens similar to those released by the recent British Petroleum spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the 1989 Exxon Valdez tanker spill in Alaska.

The most recent study was published Aug. 30 by the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. U of A researcher Erin Kelly was the lead author on the paper.

"We have to establish a robust long-term monitoring program on the Athabasca," said Schindler. "The effects on human and environmental health must be accurate and made public." ■

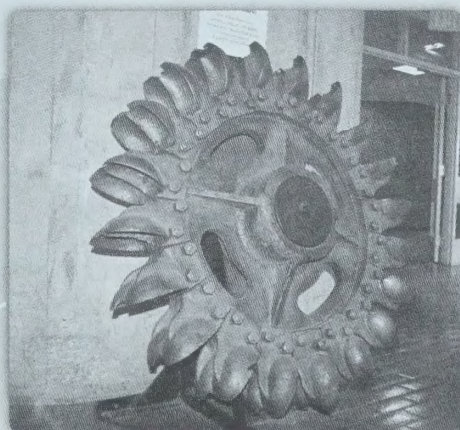


David Schindler

## Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to David Cruden, whose name was drawn as part of folio's Aug. 13 "Are You a Winner?" contest, after he correctly identified the object in the photo as the community garden shed on the north side of 89 Ave. For correctly identifying the photo in question, Cruden has won a copy of former U of A English professor Stephen Scobie's latest work, "The Measure of Paris," courtesy of The U of A Press.

Up for grabs this week is a coffetable spectacular, "The Beginning of Print Culture in Athabasca Country," courtesy of the University of Alberta Press. Translated by Patricia Demers, Naomi McIlwraith and Dorothy Thunder, it is a tangible piece of history for anyone interested in language, culture, the making of books and the process of settlement



in Western Canada. To win a copy, simply identify where on campus the object of the picture is located. Email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Sept. 17, and you will be entered into the draw.

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**Children's ADHD symptoms & more!**

### Patient Testimonials:

- 1) "Near half our staffs have been in your clinic"— A staff of U of A Medicine department.
- 2) "You helped me lost 35 lbs. & my blood pressure reduced from 180/110 to 125/85. My 20 yrs neck & shoulder pain was gone."— A senior staff of U of A.
- 3) "I had sever sciatic pain from spinal stenosis, disc bulges & spinal cyst which are not operable. In 2 months, Dr. He has liberated me from most of the pain!"— A senior staff of U of A





Parents and students crowded the halls of Lister Centre Sept. 3.

## United Way campus campaign poised to surpass 2009 record

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta's 2010 United Way Campaign will quietly begin this year much like a calm proceeds a storm.

With a soft opening for the fundraiser scheduled for Sept. 17, organizers of the campus leg of the United Way campaign are confident that a crescendo of events scheduled throughout the rest of September and October will help surpass last year's record-setting \$646,000.

"Support by the University of Alberta community of the United Way has been nothing short of remarkable in the last several years, and that is testimony to our commitment to helping make the Edmonton region safe and healthy for those who live, work, and learn here," said Debra Pozega Osburn, honorary chair of the U of A United Way campaign. "At a time when the most vulnerable in our community may need assistance more than ever, every gift, large or small, makes a difference."

"Every gift nurtures the Edmonton region and helps assure that our families and neighbourhoods thrive."

This year's confirmed fundraising events include the Turkey Trot, scheduled for Oct. 2, the Campus Auction Market, to be held from Oct. 19 to 25, and Chillin' for Charity, pencilled in for Nov. 17.

Although the official campaign part of the fundraiser ends at the end of October, organizers will be holding events and accepting donations to count toward this year's total until the end of 2010. ■

## External Relations merger announced

Folio Staff

Since External Relations was established as a separate portfolio at the University of Alberta 10 years ago, the university has continued in its transformation

toward becoming a more comprehensive and global institution, an essential evolution for post-secondary institutions that seek to enhance their competitiveness among peer institutions.

The continued progress of the

institution, coupled with the clear identification of the institutional promise of "uplifting the whole people" that grew from the university's success of the 2008 Centenary, creates an opportunity for External Relations to take the next step in its evolution—a step that will help foster greater innovation and synergy across the portfolio. Effective immediately, the units previously known separately as Public Affairs and Creative Services will join forces to form a division of Marketing and Communications.

"The Marketing and Communications unit will be essential to our ability this year to deliver and disseminate the U of A promise," said Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president, external relations. "It will help guide and execute an effective web strategy; refresh our alumni engagement activities, including more activities that are student-centric; and refine our strategic effectiveness in government relations while building strong relationships throughout our communities." ■

## the open door

### There is no week like the first week – welcome back

Indira Samarasekera, O.C.  
President and vice-provost

I've always felt that the first week of classes is the most important in the academic calendar. Why? Because this week, more than any other, brings the whole university community's focus onto the core mission of the institution: teaching and learning. Faculty stand ready with new syllabi, reading lists and assignments, prepared to meet and exceed student expectations. Staff are busy advising students, revising schedules, preparing budgets, updating websites and reopening renovated classrooms—in addition to attending to the thousands of other tasks that need to be done. Thank you all for doing your utmost to create a truly vibrant teaching and learning environment.

Tens of thousands of students are returning—or arriving for the first time—full of expectation. There are surely some nerves too, as they think about the intellectual and personal challenges that lie ahead.

Students are not the only ones facing challenges—so too is each member of our community. The 2010–2011 budget is in place and I know that faculty, staff and students are dealing with many new realities, from larger classes, staff reductions, higher fees, and other difficulties particular to each unit, department and faculty. And, unfortunately, the signs are that next year will be no easier.

In the next few months, as the community discusses, deliberates and finalizes its new academic plan, the university's changed financial situation will mean putting some constraints on the academic strategies we outline and undertake in the next five years. That's the reality.

However, though strategies may be shifted—and timelines extended—the U of A's vision and mission remain a strong force bringing us together in common cause. In speaking with many of you across campus, I have often been told how much this sense of shared community and purpose adds to the rewards of working here even in, or especially in, challenging times.

As president, I have a critical role to play in the coming year as the U of A's strongest, most persistent advocate. Be assured that I will be advocating at every opportunity and in every possible venue—with government officials, with donors and with international partners. Yes, the U of A is facing tough financial choices, but we have also never been stronger in the quality of our faculty and staff, our teaching and research record, the facilities we've built and the students we attract.

It's my job to ensure that the U of A's partners know this and retain their well-placed confidence in us. We need their strong support into the future. In the coming months, you will find me doing all I can to secure and enhance the continued success of our university, faculty, staff and students. ■



### Celebrating the achievements of University of Alberta alumni

The University of Alberta Alumni Association is pleased to honour 36 outstanding graduates at the 2010 Alumni Recognition Awards on September 22 at the Winspear Centre for Music.

The **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD** recognizes the accomplishments of living alumni who have earned national and international prominence as a result of their achievements.



**Bob Baker**, '74 BFA

Through his talent, creativity, and enthusiasm, Bob Baker has shared his love of theatre with audiences around the world, and his impact will be felt for generations to come.

**Melody Davidson**, '86 BPE

As a coach and mentor, Melody Davidson is a trailblazer who has left an indelible mark on the sport of women's hockey in Canada and around the world.



**Lillian Fishman**, '36 BSc(HEC)

A pioneering spirit in the biochemistry community, Lillian Fishman, has had a lasting impact on cancer research as co-founder of the Sanford Burnham Medical Research Institute.

**David W. Krause**, '71 BSc, '76 MSc

David W. Krause is a world-renowned vertebrate paleontologist who has made groundbreaking discoveries and remarkable humanitarian contributions.



**Myron Semkuley**, '60 BSc, '64 MD, and

**Elaine R.M. (Cormier) Semkuley**, '62 BSc(Pharm)



Myron and Elaine Semkuley have made an immeasurable difference in the world through their volunteer organization Medical Mercy Canada.

#### ALUMNI HORIZON AWARD

**Jason Acker**, '95 BSc, '97 MSc, '00 PhD, '09 MBA

**Trevor Duplessis**, '97 BEd, '00 BFA

**Casey Hudson**, '98 BSc(Eng)

**Scott Nicholas Romanuk**, '08 BA

**Tania Lianne Spilchen**, '01 BSc

#### ALUMNI AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

**Stacey J. Handley**, '93 LLB

**Marc Kennedy**, '05 BCom

**Andrei Metelitsa**, '04 BMS, '05 MD

#### ALUMNI HONOUR AWARD

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**Paul J. Byrne**, '85 PhD

**Jean Cooley**, '77 PhD

**James Cummins**, '74 PhD

**Linda J. Cundy**, '84 Dip(Ed), '88 MEd

**Andrew E. Derocher**, '87 MSc, '91 PhD

**James S. Edwards**, '62 BA, '06 LL.D(Honorary)

**Susan M. Gallacher**, '84 BCom, '88 LLB

**Marie L. Gordon**, '79 LLB

**Terry M. Macyk**, '68 BSc(Ag), '72 MSc

**Geraldine Nakonechny**, '59 Dip(Nu), '60 BSc(Nu), '83 MEd

**Sylvia Oishi**, '85 LLB

**Mary Phillips-Rickey**, '77 BCom

**Bruce Reith**, '79 BA(RecAdmin)

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**Rudi Unterthiner**, '67 MD

**Douglas Stuart Walkinshaw**, '66 MSc, '70 PhD

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**Michael Kaye**, '88 BA

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For information on the awards program, in-honour giving, and the recipients visit [www.ualberta.ca/alumni/recognition](http://www.ualberta.ca/alumni/recognition)

## surf city

While about 25 University of Alberta students a year become very familiar with the rural Ghanaian village of Atwima Apemanim, most U of A students will probably never set foot there. But a new website (<http://apemanim.webs.com/>) has opened the community up to all who click on its pages. Drawing on assistance from students participating in the Faculty of Education course, Global Citizenship Field Experience in Ghana, the website was launched under the direction of the course's local instructor, Kwasi Ansu-Kyeremeh, a professor at the University of Ghana and chief of Apemanim Village. Look at pictures of the village, check out the progress of the community health-planning services clinic and learn more about the region and the people who live there.

### Welcome to Apemanim!

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Apemanim is a small village located about 20km west of Kumasi. It has a population of approximately 400. It has a street side shop and pub, though without knowing exactly where

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RECENT PHOTOS



# Math modeler sees work jump from journal pages

Michael Brown

When the SARS epidemic lashed Ontario in 2003, the medical establishment quickly recognized the country was unprepared to properly combat the outbreak and transmission of disease in Canada.

With a primary goal of strengthening Canada's capacity to protect and improve the health of its citizens and to help reduce pressures on the health-care system, the government created the Public Health Agency of Canada. Besides providing undisputed leadership in the fight against disease, this new unified health body did away with any previous notions about disease transmission and flung open its doors to innovation.

Among the groups eager to join the fight against epidemics were the country's mathematicians.

"It used to be we would grab [a medical] problem, put it into mathematics, make it into a very abstract problem, and solve it, just to [have it] tucked away in mathematical journals," said Michael Li, professor in the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. "But when the Public Health Agency of Canada was set up, it was open to a multi-disciplinary approach to emergency preparedness."

With a particular interest in understanding the transmission dynamics of infectious diseases, in

particular AIDS and tuberculosis, Li, who originally came to the U of A in 1988 as a PhD student, has watched his work gradually gain acceptance.

"[Policy makers] have past data as well as ideas about what they want to do, but they don't know what's going to happen or how well their policy is going to work out," said Li. "Math models allow you to set up your scenario and let it play out. A model can help administrators choose strategy. With the models, we are better prepared with them, than without."

**"In the past, I would teach and do research, but now I really think part of the whole package is learning rather than strictly classroom teaching and doing research."**

Michael Li

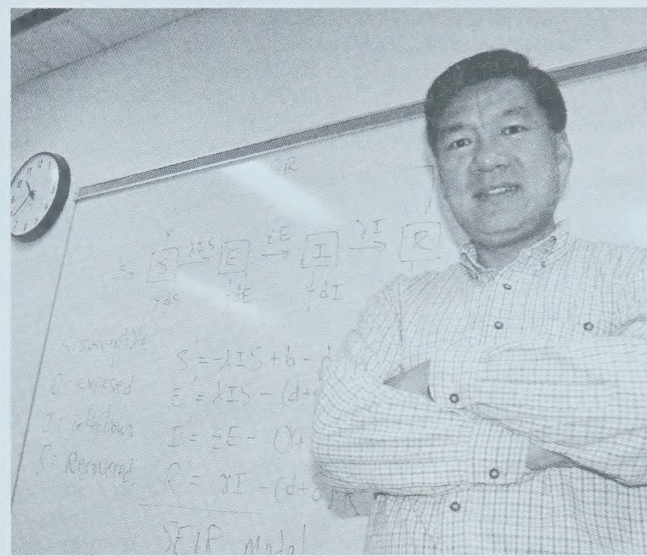
At about the same time math modeling was being accepted into new lab and boardroom settings in exciting and novel ways, Li says an ideological shift in the way students learn began on campus when Indira Samarasekera was named president of the U of A in 2005.

"There is a real promotion of a learning environment now," said Li. "In the past, I would teach and do research, but now I really think part of the whole package is learning rather than strictly classroom teaching and doing research."

"Students don't normally get to see what research looks like until it is very late in their education. Bringing research into the classroom is something students love, so that is something we will try to do."

Finding a niche mixing math and medicine, Li now works with the School of Public Health at the U of A on the spread of HIV and tuberculosis. A recipient of a 2010 McCalla Professorship—given to outstanding faculty members to provide them with an opportunity to explore and implement strategies integrating their research and teaching—Li will use his award to create a new interdisciplinary course, Mathematical Modelling in Public Health Sciences, for students from both math and public-health sciences.

"Through my experience working with the School of Public Health, I have found the hardest part is understanding each other," said Li. "At the end of the day, I'm not expecting my students to become public-health researchers, I just want them to understand the language of the other side, know their concerns, know what is significant and feel comfortable on the other side."



Michael Li demonstrate the math model that shows how a disease would progress through a population.

"For public-health students, hopefully the course can help them understand the methodology of the modeling and what models can help them to do so that they would be inclined to collaborate with a modeler when they become a researcher."

Li will also use his time as a McCalla professor finishing off a book on disease dynamics and explore the extent to which math modeling is applicable across academia.

"We have realized the same kind of system of equations occurs all

over other areas, from engineering to chemical kinetics and systems biology," he said.

As an example of this synergy, Li explained how he and a summer student were able to apply math modeling of disease dynamics to the engineering problem of how to get unmanned aerial robots to fly in formation.

"In engineering, whatever equation we can develop for one problem can be applicable to others. That is why we are pushing so hard for abstract thought."

## Study shows aerobic fitness training trumps pedometer-based walking programs

Jane Hurly

What to do: walk around the block or work up a sweat in an aerobic workout at the gym? If you're looking for the best health benefits from an exercise program, University of Alberta researchers have found a traditional aerobic fitness program that gets your heart pumping beats a walking program hands down. But if you want to get moving, a walking program is easier to do, it's good for you, and you're more likely to stick with it.

Researchers compared fitness training to a pedometer-based walking program, measuring the fitness and health outcomes of each. Programs were designed so participants would expend the same amount of energy in each regimen.

For the six-month study, exercise physiologist Gordon Bell recruited 128 physically inactive men and women between 27 and 65 years of age with no known cardiovascular or other diseases. At the start of the study, volunteers were randomized into the control group, the walking group or the exercise group and all were required to wear a pedometer for the duration of the study to ensure that they stayed within the

prescribed number of steps.

Comparing fitness and walking groups, Bell and his team found that after six months those in the supervised fitness program showed significantly greater reductions in their systolic blood pressure (about nine per cent versus three per cent); rating of perceived exertion, or effort measured during submaximal exercise (10 per cent versus no change); ventilatory threshold—the point at which respiratory changes occur and respiration begins to become increasingly difficult during progressive exercise (15 per cent versus four per cent); and peak VO<sub>2</sub>, a measurement of peak oxygen intake (nine per cent versus three per cent).

All told, Bell says all participants saw benefits. Walking and fitness training groups saw a significant reduction in body mass, waist circumference and waist-to-hip ratio after the six months, as well as resting heart rate. Surprisingly, the control group saw changes too and Bell says it's possible they were motivated to be more physically active after undergoing the health assessment at the start of the study, and having a pedometer, which may have made them more aware of how much or little they were physically active.

"The participants in the tradi-

tional fitness program improved their fitness-based response more than those in the walking program," says Bell. "The magnitude of that difference in improvement was very clear."

However, he says, it's not the type of exercise program for everyone. "Not everybody's going to be able to start in a traditional exercise program, such as those with certain health issues or type 2 diabetes, because of the higher intensity, duration and frequency of exercise training that is required."

"Lifestyle and pedometer-based fitness programs make it easier to get started, as long as there are no lower limb issues or one is not severely overweight. Most people have the ability to walk and walking-based programs are easy to prescribe and progressively overload, and get people walking far enough to begin to derive health benefits from it."

But, cautions Bell, "It's a long-term commitment. It seems that you need at least six months to get some health benefits from walking-based programs."

The study was published in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* and is part of the larger research study led by the principal investigator and exercise psychologist, Wendy Rodgers and colleagues Vicki Harber, Terra Murray and Kerry Courneya, examining how people felt about exercise and their reasons for adherence or non-adherence to an exercise program.



Gordon Bell

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# An extra 100 days of medicine protects kidney-transplant patients

Raquel Maurier

**K**idney-transplant patients with no immunity to a deadly virus known as cytomegalovirus, or CMV, are typically put on a course of antiviral medication known as Valcyte for 100 days post-surgery.

But Atul Humar, a researcher with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta, has discovered that doubling the length of time on that medication to 200 days drops the CMV infection rates for high-risk patients significantly. The infection rates within one year post-surgery decreased by

more than half, going from 36.8 per cent to 16.8 per cent.

The results of Humar's research were published in the *American Journal of Transplantation* in August. His study, which involved working with an international group of investigators and with the pharmaceutical industry, involved 326 patients at 65 centres in 13 countries around the world.

In August the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the increased length of drug treatment for high risk kidney transplant patients.

"It's an exciting finding," says Humar, who was the principle

investigator in the study and is the director of transplant infectious diseases with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. "The better prevention strategies we have for patients, the better it is for them. We always want to prevent these infections as opposed to treating them as they arise."

Many adults already have immunity to CMV because they have been in contact with the virus at some point in their lives. But for those who have never been exposed to CMV and have no immunity to it, the disease is easy to contract, especially for people with suppressed immune systems who are on anti-rejection drugs.

During the first six months after a kidney transplant, more than one third of patients can become sick due to CMV, which can cause complications in various organs throughout the body.

Humar says the next step is to further improve prevention efforts in high-risk transplant patients to further decrease CMV infection rates. He is currently working in the lab to study immune responses to the virus.

"I want to see if we can predict who will be at risk. We want to check patients' immunity to the virus over time and refine our prevention strategies based on that." ■



Atul Humar has discovered that doubling the length of time kidney-transplant patients are on antiviral medication to 200 days drops infection rates for high-risk patients significantly.

## U of A technology to unlock ancient data

Brian Murphy

**T**he University of Alberta has new multi-million dollar technology that can analyze an ancient mineral sample and tell you how it was created, its chemical makeup and its potential commercial value. It can also analyze teeth from an animal and tell you about the environmental conditions it experienced.

The machine is an ion probe and this model, the Cameca IMS-1280, is the only one of its kind in Canada. It is also the centrepiece of the U of A's new Canadian Centre for Isotopic Microanalysis, which was officially opened Sept. 7.

The probe allows for the closest look possible into the atomic make up of material such as a rock sample or bone.

"The probe can capture a moment in time, possibly millions or billions of years ago when the molecular structure of a mineral was being formed," said Thomas Stachel, researcher and director of the centre.

The probe's powerful resolution gets down to a level of 10 microns, about one-tenth the width of a human hair.

The natural-resources industry will use the centre's equipment, including the ion probe, to capture new information about mineral and fossil-fuel formations, which will aid in extraction and development.

Stachel says geologists looking for diamonds in Canada's North are concerned with the carbon content in mineral samples and the new ion probe can pick out the exact carbon atoms



The U of A's Cameca IMS-1280 ion probe is the centrepiece of the Canadian Centre for Isotopic Microanalysis.

they're looking for.

"Our machine determines what geological forces created the carbon and the period of time it took to form," said Stachel. "Knowing how and when a diamond was formed tells you a lot about its value."

Stachel explains that resource companies will use data from the centre to improve their chances of finding the most valuable diamond deposits. "Mineral revenue from the north is 98 or 99 per cent diamonds," said Stachel. "Keeping the costs and efficiency of exploration down is essential for keeping that Canadian industry alive."

In addition to natural-resource clients, the centre will carry out work in a variety of university disciplines. Stachel says biologists, for instance, can use the probe to learn a lot from an animal's tooth. Instead of grinding up a polar bear's tooth and analyzing its molecular content in bulk, a tiny slice of the tooth

is put into the new probe. Stachel likens the process to analyzing the rings of a tree. "We can look at every single year in the life of that polar bear and analyze what it ate, where it lived and extrapolate the environmental conditions it experienced."

The centre is funded with approximately \$14.8 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Alberta government—through the Alberta Science and Research Partnership Initiative—and the University of Alberta, through the Faculty of Science and the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

"The expertise and equipment required to conduct this kind of research now and into the future is highly specialized and expensive," says U of A President Indira Samarasekera. "The Canadian Centre for Isotopic Microanalysis will get to the answers and solutions we all need faster and more efficiently." ■

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## Amino acids get in on fight against infection

Quinn Phillips

**R**ichard Lamb and his post-doctoral fellow, Virginie Mieulet, have discovered that an amino acid called arginine is helpful in letting the body know that it's being attacked by an infectious agent.

According to Lamb, a professor in the Department of Oncology, it is known that arginine is essential for the function of macrophages, the first cells to arrive at the site of infection, ones key in attracting more immune-fighting cells to the area.

In their study, Lamb and Mieulet presented arginine to calorie-restricted mice and found that the mice were better able to fight infection.

"This is a major work," said

Lamb. "If [these findings] prove true in humans, it [could] show that one aspect of nutrition that is critical in fighting infection [is the presence of arginine in one's diet]."

Arginine is commonly found in red meats and other proteins.

It's still early in their work, but this discovery could have implications for the millions of people in developing nations that malnourished and prone to infection.

Arginine, the pair says, could also be looked at as the possible mechanism involved in chronic inflammation like arthritis. It could be that if you have too much arginine, it could cause the body to react as if it's in a constant state of being attacked.

The study, which is published in the August edition of journal *Science Signalling*, has taken the research

group three years to complete. The pair actually started studying the pathway that regulates cell growth, but when they received results that led them to arginine they pursued that angle.

"I think this is how most good science progresses," said Lamb. "You get some interesting results and you start to have to think about what those results mean."

And they'll continue to look at what these specific findings mean, as the pair hope to understand further the role of arginine in the body.

"We are most interested in how a cell can sense arginine, or its deficiency in more mechanistic detail," said Lamb.

"We also want to design studies to evaluate whether our results hold true in humans." ■

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# Augustana Campus celebrates 100 years

Christopher Thrall

This year marks the Centenary of Augustana campus, the vibrant University of Alberta campus located an hour southeast of Edmonton in the city of Camrose. With more than 1,000 students enrolled in arts, music, science, business economics, nursing and—for the first time this year—physiotherapy, Augustana has grown into an important part of the U of A's community.

The campus grew from humble roots. Originally Camrose Lutheran College, the then-secondary school's first steps took place in the summer of 1910. Central Alberta had been a destination for Norwegian immigrants from the American Midwest, as well as directly from Norway, since about 1890. In providing this community with secondary education, Lutherans from the U.S. repeated a process that was well established in places where the public system provided only primary education.

The college began its first academic year in the fall of 1911 and moved into its own building—Founders' Hall or "Old Main"—in October 1912. The

government's act of incorporation in 1913 allowed the association to establish a school where students may obtain a liberal education in the arts and sciences.

The earliest of the college's calendar describes the general purpose of the school as giving "young men and women a higher education based on the Christian faith as taught in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and to foster, encourage, and guard the Norwegian heritage and Christian life of its students." All Lutheran students took religious instruction; non-Lutheran students showing a good moral character were permitted to graduate so long as they attended services in the church to which they belonged.

Later, Chester Ronning, principal from 1927 to 1942 (and subsequently a famed Canadian diplomat), took "the education, growth and development of the whole person" as the central theme

of CLC. The theme was rooted partly in the egalitarian Scandinavian folk-school movement, which envisioned a broadly educated society, and that goal has remained part of Augustana's ethos.

The college's evolution into an undergraduate liberal arts and sciences col-

lege was first discussed during the late 1930s, while Ronning was principal.

For many, the college became a kind of preparatory school for the University of Alberta: first-year university courses were offered in 1959 and second-year courses came 10 years later under an affiliation agreement. The college gained full degree-granting status in 1984 and adopted the name Augustana in 1991. It became a campus of the U of A in 2004.

The Augustana Campus of today would astound those founders 100 years ago. The 40-acre green space in the heart of Camrose boasts a number of updated facilities, including physiology lab spaces, a Fitness Centre, and the brand new \$34 million library and Student Forum, as well as access to a park system with over 180 kilometres of trails. Half of the students live in on-campus residence and partake of the all-you-can-eat cafeteria, which prides itself on preparing dishes made from local food.

"At our Centenary, Augustana has set a distinctive path as a U of A campus for the public good," says Dean Roger Epp. "We have inherited and renewed, for our times, a commitment to life-changing education: holistic, personal, rigorous, oriented to citizenship in the tradition of the liberal arts." This philosophy has allowed Augustana to



Augustana's "Old Main," now known as Founder's Hall, upon completion in 1912.

find a proud place as the University of Alberta's smaller, rural campus and has fuelled its vision for the next hundred years. ■

## Celebrating Augustana's Centenary

**Sept. 15**

Centenary kickoff party for Augustana students and staff

**Sept. 21**

Forum and library opening celebration

**Oct. 3**

Centennial golden alumni gathering, class of 1945 reunion

**Jan. 29, 2011**

Augustana Centennial round dance (Edmonton)

**June 3–5, 2011**

Centennial homecoming celebration

Visit Augustana's Centenary website at [www.augustana.ualberta.ca/100/](http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/100/) for more events, updates and news about our celebrations.



## Sustainability steals the show at president's picnic

Michael Brown

It's not very often that dinner guests insist on doing their own dishes, but such was the case at the most recent incarnation of the ever-sustainable President's Staff Appreciation Picnic Aug. 25.

In alignment with the University of Alberta's sustainability initiative, the Office of Sustainability, Buildings and Ground Services and Classic Fare Catering did everything in their power to minimize greenhouse emissions and waste, which included asking the 3,500 or so university staff in attendance to bring their own utensils and dishes.

"People attending the picnic were really trying to make an impact," said George Thomlison, manager with Building and Ground Services. "I bet 10 or 15 per cent brought their own containers this year. They came and got their food and the only things they were putting in the garbage can were the corn cob and the two little bamboo skewers."

Organizers of the festivities also provided 500 washable plastic plates and biodegradable plates, cups and utensils.

There were also five recycling stations featuring an educational component. As well, bottled water was eliminated, printed materials used to promote the event were minimized as electronic invitations and door-prize tickets were utilized and all power needs were fulfilled using green electricity donated by Bullfrog Power.

In addition, just in case anything was overlooked, the Office of Sustainability purchased one tonne of gold standard carbon offsets to cover any remaining main emission sources.

"With the credits we basically had zero waste," said Thomlison.

All told, Thomlison says only 1.2 metric tonnes of organic waste was collected, about the same amount as last year, despite seeing upwards of 500 more people taking in the picnic this year. Thanks to an ongoing agreement with the City of Edmonton, every tonne of organics the university collected from the picnic will be returned to campus as a tonne of compost. Those compostable materials will be added to the 100 tonnes of compost already in use on campus, which Thomlison says was

collected from Lister Centre and SUB over the last year and mixed into campus shrubs and flowerbeds.

"There have been some significant advances with organic recycling on campus, with both the Students' Union building and Lister Centre providing opportunities for staff and students to recycle organics. Both these groups have done a great job of incorporating organic recycling into their operations," said Thomlison. "I think everyone understands that if we all do a little tiny bit we can make a big change."

And while U of A President Indira Samarasekera says the main reason for the picnic is that it is the one time of year that she gets to thank staff for everything they do, she was impressed to see everyone take sustainability so seriously.

"I was proud to see that so many of our staff demonstrated their commitment to sustainability by bringing their own cutlery and plates to help ensure that the picnic was waste-free and carbon neutral," she said. "This kind of commitment from our staff is part of what makes the U of A so great." ■



The recycling centres set up at the President's Staff Appreciation Picnic were one of the day's big attractions.

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## Physical therapist finds herself happily back where she started

Ken Mathewson

Who says you can't go home again? Su Ling Chong seems to have managed just fine.

A former student of the physical therapy program at the University of Alberta, Chong is now putting her education to use in the very same place that she acquired it, and by the sounds of things, that's just fine with her.

"This place has really spoiled me," says Chong. "Once you get into a university setting, it's tough to go back. I'd be hard pressed to leave here."

After graduating in 1993, Chong spent almost four years working in long-term care. Despite her fondness for the work and her patients, once she spotted a job posting with her alma mater, she was quick to respond. Now, 13 years later, she still works closely with her patients, only now—instead

of simply providing them with physical therapy—she's helping to design technology to increase their mobility.

"It's different work, for sure," said Chong. "In the clinics and the hospitals you tend not to bring your work home with you, but with research, it's constantly on your mind."

As a member of Richard Stein's neurological rehabilitation team, Chong was instrumental in the development of the WalkAide orthotic device, which is currently in use by more than 1,000 people worldwide. The device uses electrical stimulation to assist patients who have lost partial control of their legs due to conditions or injuries affecting their central nervous system. To use one of Chong's favorite quotes on the subject, "Electrical signals speak the language of the nerve."

Her extensive knowledge and uninhibited enthusiasm indicate that

## staff spotlight

Chong finds her work rewarding, but she cautions graduates who are considering following in her footsteps that her chosen career is not always predictable.

"It's definitely not a nine-to-five kind of job. When there are deadlines, we're here all day and night," said Chong. "But we're getting such great results that it would be a shame to delay putting the word out."

However, Chong maintains that the occasional shift in the schedule is a small price to pay for the rewards received by helping people regain their mobility.

"Most of our patients have had their condition for at least five years," said Chong, "so by the time we start to work with them they have often given up. I think that's why I like this position so much. You give people hope."

Hope isn't all she helps to give them. With studies showing a 50 per cent increase in walking speed over 12 months among patients using the WalkAide device, it would appear that she's also giving them results; results she modestly attributes to Stein and the rest of the rest of the development team.

"I have fabulous bosses, but it's a little intimidating to be surrounded by all these smart people," she laughs. "I'm not one of them. I'm just on the periphery." ■



A former student of the U of A's physical therapy program, Su Ling Chong is now putting her education to use in the very same place that she acquired it.

## It's not your grandmother's Campus Rec

Michael Brown

For those still haunted by the ghost of group fitness classes past, where curriculums were fashioned from the latest Sweating to the Oldies video tapes of the 1980s, the University of Alberta's Campus Rec promises to exercise those demons.

"The stigma of group fitness with the leotards and the high ponytails is going away," said Naissa Preston, program co-ordinator for group fitness. "We are trying to incorporate a larger segment of the population on campus. My version of all-inclusive doesn't mean middle of the road. My 'all-inclusive' is finding those populations that aren't being served."

The newest class is Zumba, a Latin-based dance cardio routine with no verbal cuing, which Preston says is less structured and more about having fun.

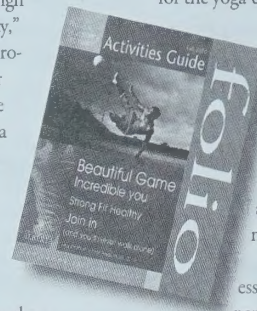
Campus Rec is, for the first time, offering what Preston is calling a "fusion" of fitness classes.

"I'm calling them integrated fitness because there is more than one format going on within one single session," she said. "The instructor has your attention for roughly an hour and 15 minutes and he or she will spend that in a spin situation, and the other half in hatha yoga, meditative Zen, stretch-it-out, functional fitness environment."

Besides cycling and yoga, the integrated fitness alternative can include

virtually any combination of Pilates, dance, core-strength exercise and muscular strength classes.

"These new programs don't necessarily fit the group-fitness model, but I'm trying to attract some people who wouldn't normally do group fitness," said Preston. "If you don't like yoga that much but you think it is necessary and you love cycling, you might sign up for the yoga-cycling class."



Moreover, while all of these classes cater across all levels of fitness, Campus Rec is offering a class to take athleticism to another level—Postural and Movement Improvement.

"It is Pilates-based but is essentially postural training, perfect for golfers, racquet sport athletes, runners, any

athletic types that need to improve their game, coming at it from a postural sense," said Preston. "The same idea goes for people who have been injured or have some sort of structural problem that is keeping them from being active."

Preston says all of the group-fitness classes—whether it is boot camp or belly dance—are about keeping the campus community healthy.

"It is important to put down your pens and laptops, and do something for yourself," she said. "It's more than fitness, it's about community-building. I'm hoping to build relationships."

"People need to better incorporate that wellness aspect into a healthy student or staff life." ■

## Research shows special yoga improves breast-cancer recovery

Carmen Leibel

Treatment for breast cancer often leaves women in pain, immobilized and feeling tired and depressed. But Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation research fellow Amy Speed-Andrews has examined how a specialized Iyengar yoga program is helping breast cancer survivors stretch and breathe their way through recovery.

"People have done studies with yoga and breast cancer but they haven't specified what type of yoga they were doing so it's hard to replicate studies and build an evidence base for its benefits," she says.

The work began with doctoral fellow Clare Stevinson, who started the study before Speed-Andrews arrived at the U of A. Stevinson started data collection by asking participants to fill out a questionnaire at the beginning of a 12-week session of Iyengar yoga and again at the end.

"They were asked general health-related and disease-specific questions about symptoms from treatment, surgery and how that affects their quality of life. Then we looked at different psychosocial aspects like depression, anxiety and body image," said Speed-Andrews.

Speed-Andrews found that after the yoga, 94 per cent said they had improvements in their quality of life; 88 per cent felt better physically; 87 per cent reported being happier and 80 per cent were less tired. Other improvements were reported in body

image and in decreased levels of stress, anxiety and depression.

She was encouraged by the results, adding, "This provides incentive for future, larger, randomized and controlled trials to examine in greater depth the benefit of yoga for breast cancer survivors."

Iyengar yoga instructor Judith Mirus designed the specialized program for breast cancer survivors in consultation with the daughter of yoga master BKS Iyengar. Mirus says seeing the women during their practice is proof it's making a difference. "Energy, balance, relaxation, I was surprised by how powerful that is for them. You can see that when you have them in the poses," said Mirus.

Mirus is a breast cancer survivor herself and says yoga helped get her through treatment.

"My control of quality of life and my control of my mental functioning—because you do get 'chemo brain' and your memory is affected—all that was much more manageable because I had something very concrete to use and that was yoga."

Speed-Andrews recently published a paper in the journal *Cancer Nursing*. She plans to add an additional component to her research once the next session of Iyengar yoga classes begin this September and wants to examine how Iyengar yoga effects on women's joints, upper body strength and balance.

"We're hoping to eventually extend the research by examining the benefits of the program for women with advanced breast cancer." ■



### Call for Consultation

By the Dean Selection Committee,  
Augustana Faculty

#### DEAN SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

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**Ed Blackburn**

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Dr. Roger Epp's term as Dean will end June 30, 2011, and a Selection Committee has been established in accordance with University regulations to begin the search for a new Dean, Augustana Faculty and Executive Officer of Augustana Campus.

At this point, the Selection Committee is calling for opinion on the leadership needs of the Faculty in the years ahead and on any other key issues. Individuals are urged to contact members of the Committee, or write to me as Chair, to express their views on priorities of the Faculty, current issues, and the future direction of the Faculty. All feedback may be shared with the Selection Committee. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, **please submit your comments by Friday, October 15, 2010.**

In addition, individuals who wish to stand as a candidate are invited to apply. Individuals may also nominate others who they feel would be suitable candidates.

The selection of a Dean is vital to the success of the Faculty. I would therefore ask all interested persons, who have some stake in the outcome of this process, to take the time, even at this busy point in the academic year, to give some thought to the future of this Faculty. Your views are important to us. Thank you for your assistance.

Please forward your comments to the address below or to any member of the Dean Selection Committee (contact information at left).

**Carl G. Amrhein**  
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)  
Chair, Dean Selection Committee  
2-10 University Hall  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J9  
E-Mail: [provost@ualberta.ca](mailto:provost@ualberta.ca)



## Study polls homeless as they access health care

Quinn Phillips

An emergency room physician wants to make visits by inner-city Edmontonians to the hospital a better experience.

After fielding complaints from inner-city clients about their emergency department experience at that hospital, Kathryn Dong, an emergency room physician at the hospital, decided to carry out a needs-assessment survey.

During a pilot survey carried out in June and July, emergency-room patients at the hospital were screened as they came through triage by being asked if they had a permanent place

to live in the last 30 days and if they had any acute or chronic substance-use issues. If a patient was identified as living a high-risk lifestyle, he or she was asked to take part in a survey, which asked the patients basic questions about their demographics, current drug use and living situation. It then asked if there were any emergency-room needs the patient would like to have addressed.

"We've never actually systematically looked at this group in terms of satisfaction with care," said Dong. "We don't know how well we're meeting their needs or how satisfied they are with their care. I think this is huge in overcoming barriers to accessing care. This group has a lot of

medical issues because of their lifestyles and they have the hardest time getting to the emergency department because they have other priorities like finding somewhere to stay that night and getting food."

In the end, Dong says her group, the Edmonton Inner City Health Research and Education Network, wants to know things like whether or not inner-city patients want more education materials about overdose or safe injection; if they want to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases; and if they want help with their housing issues. Dong also wants to determine if the emergency department should become more of a "one-stop shop."

"Our target population is very interested in completing the survey," said Dong. "They're thrilled that they're being asked for their opinion and we've had a very positive response from the community about this."

Dong, her fellow physicians and researchers from the University of Alberta just finished the pilot project and will now begin collecting data. The group wants to survey about 500 people. It's expected to take a year to collect and analyze the data.

"We want to make sure we know what the community needs before we spend a lot of time and money putting in place something that I think they would want," said Dong. ■

## Canada's Children's Fitness Tax Credit benefits wealthier families

Jane Hurly

When it comes to who gets the biggest bang from Canada's much-routed Children's Fitness Tax Credit—a program designed to spur more kids' involvement in physical activity programs by offsetting the cost of registering in them—wealthier families are the clear winners, behavioural scientist John Spence has found.

This is the first study to take a critical look at the uptake and effectiveness of the tax credit to increase physical activity levels of children.

Spence and his research team in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta conducted an Internet-based panel survey in March of 2009 with more than 2,000 Canadians taking part. Of those, 1,004 were parents of children aged two to 18. Participants completed a brief demographic survey and were asked if their child was involved in an organized physical activity program, what the costs were to register for the program, whether they were aware of the fitness tax credit, if they'd claimed for it in the 2007 tax year and whether they planned to claim for it the next year.

Among parents, 54.4 per cent said their child was enrolled in an organized physical activity program; 55.5 per cent were aware of the program; 26.1 per cent made claims for the tax credit in 2007, and 33.1 per cent

planned to do so in 2008.

Overall, only 15.6 per cent reported that it had increased their children's participation in physical activity programs; however, lower-income families used the tax credit less than wealthier families because they couldn't afford the registration fees for physical activity programs to begin with.

**"It's not only the cost of registration that's a barrier for low income families, it's income level too."**

John Spence

However, though fewer low-income parents used the program, 37 per cent of those who did said their child was more active because of the tax credit, opposed to just 10 per cent of more affluent families.

"In wealthier families, their child is already registered in programs and they're just taking advantage of the credit," said Spence. "Whereas it seems that with some of the low-income families that could be a determining factor whether their child is going to be registered in any organized program or not."

It's not only the cost of registration that's a barrier for low income families, it's income level too, says Spence. He

says population health research clearly shows that children from low-income families are less likely to be enrolled in physical activity programs than those from wealthier families and an equitable mechanism must be put in place to ensure that low-income families benefit too.

"One way is for the federal government to partner with organizations that offer sport and activity programs for low-income families and subsidize them, or allow them to claim the tax credit for the number of children they support."

"Another approach might be for the government to use the money that is not being refunded to low-income families who are not claiming the tax credit, because they don't qualify for it, to subsidize engagement in physical activity," he says.

With the maximum tax credit allowing just \$75 per child, Spence says the impact isn't significant. "But if we took \$75 per child, pooled what the federal government is currently spending on the tax credit and targeted that at, for instance, children in rural areas, Aboriginal children, those in low-income urban settings and others in need, we may be able to have a little more impact."

Spence will continue his research around the tax credit and low-income families and include families with children with disabilities. "We have no idea if these families are using the credit or not," he says. ■

## Dietary researcher appointed Aboriginal health chair

Raquel Maurier

A renowned researcher who has focused her life's work on improving the health and nutrition of Indigenous populations and other ethnic groups is the new chair of Aboriginal health and professor in global and Aboriginal health in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

Sangita (Gita) Sharma, a nutritional epidemiologist, has spent her career working with various ethnic populations in Brazil, urban and rural Cameroon, Barbados, Trinidad, Indonesia, Jamaica, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. On each project, her goal was to improve diet and overall health for those populations, taking note that different ethnic groups may be more genetically predisposed to various conditions and diseases.

"Our genetics and ethnic background can load the gun when it comes to being predisposed to various diseases, but it is nutrition that pulls the trigger," explains Sharma.

Sharma helped set up a program in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories called Healthy Foods North, where she worked with local Inuit and Inuvialuit, retailers, community groups and government to bring in healthier food at a reasonable cost.

When Sharma was researching the diet of Aboriginal groups in Africa, she ate traditional meat dishes and lived in the bush so she could understand firsthand how they prepared their food.

As the chair in Aboriginal health,

Sharma's long-term goal is to set up a Centre of Excellence in Aboriginal and

Global Health through the faculty. The centre will focus on implementing ideas brought forth from a new Canadian Aboriginal Wellness Network that she is in the midst of setting up. The network will bring Aboriginal communities and organizations, government, business and universities together to

work towards a common goal—improving Aboriginal health.

"I would like to see this centre become the go-to place for issues related to Aboriginal health," said Sharma. "I think Aboriginal health is an important concern and one that often doesn't get the attention it deserves." ■



Sangita (Gita) Sharma



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*Indira V. Samarasekera*

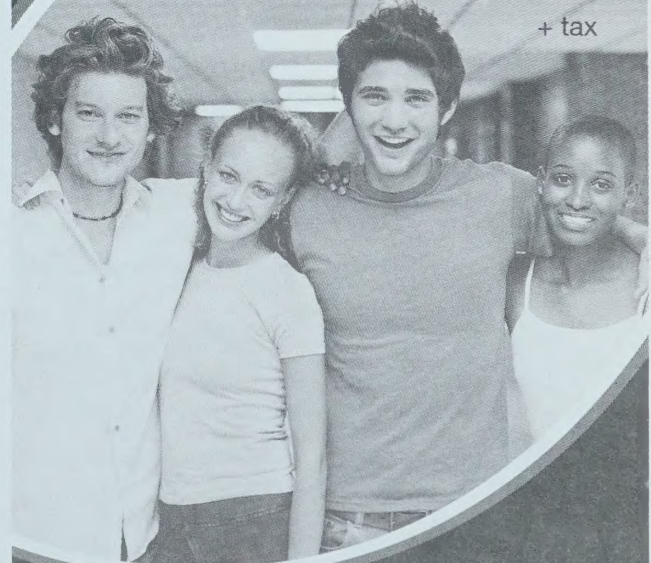
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# news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to [www.expressnews.ualberta.ca](http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca).

## Two Panda athletes lift to new heights

Pandas ice hockey forward Jennifer Jubb, as well as former Pandas field hockey player and coach A.J. Facendi, lifted themselves to record-breaking status on July 31, when they both created new international records with the 100 per cent RAW Powerlifting Federation.

At the Western Canadian Powerlifting & Bench National Championships in Calgary, Jubb, a fifth-year skater for the University of Alberta Pandas, established records in all four categories in the 20–24 age division for the 75-kilogram weight class. Jubb, a Red Deer native, achieved a squat lift of 90 kg, a bench press lift of 52.5 kg, a deadlift of 135 kg and a total combined weight of 275 kg.

The accomplishments have qualified Jubb for the World Powerlifting Championships that take place in early October in Las Vegas, but as a member of the defending CIS women's hockey champions, she plans to return her focus to the colder confines of Clare Drake Arena as she enters her final season.

Facendi, who spent last season as the interim head coach of the Pandas field hockey team, created three records in the newly-adopted 25–29 division of the 52-kg weight class at the championships in late July. The Penticton, B.C. native moved 52.5 kg in a bench press lift, 122.5 kg in a deadlift and a total of 265 kg. Facendi's efforts earned her Best Female Lifter honours for the competition, and qualified her for the championships in Las Vegas.

## Researchers find breast cancer survivors need not fear flight

Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine researcher Margie McNeely says results from an international study she was part of indicate that certain precautions about the risk of lymphedema for breast cancer survivors are outdated.

A study McNeely conducted in conjunction with an Australian research team, shows that the risk of developing lymphedema—a chronic swelling in the arm—caused by changes in cabin pressure during a flight is very low.

The caution about the lymphedema risk is aimed at women who have had lymph nodes removed from the armpit, a common procedure during cancer treatment. McNeely says because the lymphatic system helps drain fluid, when the nodes are removed there is the potential for chronic swelling.

McNeely studied the effect of air travel on 60 Canadian breast cancer survivors who were flying to Australia for an International Dragon Boat Festival. Seventeen of these women were from Edmonton. Findings indicate that 95 per cent of the women had no arm swelling.

McNeely says this study was done with a group of women who participate in regular physical activity. She hopes to do future research with breast cancer survivors from the general population.

“What we don't know is whether the findings will hold true for all of the women who had breast cancer,” said McNeely. “It may be that just these women who are really active were fine with air travel. That's one question that we have.”

## Federal funding for engineering spinoff company

Intelligent Nano, a spinoff company formed in the Faculty of Engineering, was awarded \$257,000 from the federal Industrial Research Assistance Program Aug. 18. The company is at the leading edge of nanotechnology, medicine and clean energy, applying its low-frequency ultrasound technology to everything from stem cells to biofuels.

Intelligent Nano is involved in biomedical engineering using its SonaCell technology to enhance the growth of stem cells. Stem cells are early-stage cells that can still develop into any type of cell. Intelligent Nano uses low-intensity pulsed ultrasound to “massage” thawed stem cells, improving their yield and growth.

“We can take blood from the umbilical cord and stimulate it so that more stem cells develop—then you can inject it into a patient,” said Chen.

The company uses the same technology to stimulate microorganisms such as yeast and fungi, and has developed several small-scale bio-fermentation devices to enhance the production of biofuels.

## Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship Program accepting applications

In an effort to encourage further domestic contributions to scientific research, University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera welcomed Mike Lake, member of parliament for Edmonton-Mill Woods-Beaumont, to campus Aug. 19 to announce that a fellowship program named in Sir Fedrick Banting's honour is officially accepting applications from post-doctoral researchers worldwide.

The \$45-million initiative is designed to not only attract foreign talent to Canadian institutions, but also to ensure their economic constancy as well. The introduction of the Banting fellowships should go a long way towards easing that burden. With 70 annual fellowships to be awarded, at a value of \$140,000 each over two years, research careers are suddenly looking like a viable option to many graduates who previously lacked the means, said Samarasekera.

“The Banting Fellowship Program will provide critical support for top international talents as they graduate with their doctoral degrees and begin the process of establishing their research programs and careers,” she said. “Investing in Canada's and the world's best young talent today will pay untold dividends in the future.”

For more information go to [www.banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca](http://www.banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca). ■

# Mussel gets foot in health care's door

Brian Murphy

Mussels' bothersome behaviour of clinging in huge numbers to just about any surface may actually be able to serve a purpose in human health care.

Hongbo Zeng, a chemical and materials engineering researcher, is taking a close look at the adhesion process of the mussel's foot, the body part it uses to attach itself to an underwater surface.

Mussels have been known to latch onto the hulls of ships in such great numbers that they slow the speed of the vessel. In fact, some Canadian municipalities have declared war on mussels because they establish colonies that clog water intake pipes.

“It's their ability to attach to surfaces underwater that makes the chemistry of mussels a possible breakthrough for use for bio-medical applications,” said Zeng. He explains that an adhesive that mim-

ics the protein action on the surface of the mussel's foot could produce a naturally biodegradable glue to replace stitches for minor cuts and could be used by surgeons on internal organs.

Zeng's mussel research could also lead to super-glue for industrial use in a saltwater environment. “The cuticle of the mussel's foot has a self-healing chemical process through the interactions between metal ions and proteins,” said Zeng. ■

# classified ads

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# It's not easy being green in the 'burbs

Bev Betkowski

Environmentally conscious families have a tougher time living a sustainable lifestyle if they make their homes in the suburbs, a University of Alberta study shows.

The study compared environmental practices between two sample Edmonton neighbourhoods and found that interested families in the newer suburban area had the same willingness, but less opportunity, to live a greener lifestyle.

Huddart, a PhD student of rural economy at the U of A, compared the suburban south-side neighbourhood of Terwillegar Towne with the older, more central community of Mill Creek. After surveying environmentally engaged families in both communities, she discovered that those living in the Mill Creek neigh-

bourhood were more able to follow environmentally sound practices, such as not owning a vehicle, growing most of their own food and using renewable energy. This was because their neighbours lived similarly and as a result of stronger social networks, were able to share vehicles and ideas about saving energy, as well as make cultural shifts, such as walking to stores or biking to work.

People living in Terwillegar Towne were more isolated from like-minded families, and as a result, practiced sustainability on a smaller scale, by buying organic products or recycling household waste.

People in both neighbourhoods use vehicles as their primary modes of transportation, but 42 per cent of Mill Creek residents surveyed also used other methods, compared to 11 per cent of people in Terwillegar Towne.

The findings illustrate a need for municipalities to design new neighbourhoods in ways that will encourage more sustainable living, said Huddart.

"This can range from preserving natural areas, to installing rain barrels, to ensuring public transit and bike trails are in place before developing a community," she said.

The study also showed that the suburbs were home to more people who had

little interest in sustainable practices and chose their neighbourhood for its larger, yet affordable houses and low crime rate. Those living in Mill Creek were found to identify more with environmental causes and lower material consumption.

"If municipalities install infrastructure for more sustainable living, suburban families may be more willing to take on more intensive environmental

practices," Huddart said.

Her study recommends several policies for the City of Edmonton and other municipal governments including avoidance of cul-de-sac layouts, which encourage vehicle use; education of suburban residents about a large community garden opened by the City of Edmonton; encourage car-sharing; and adding commercial space to residential

areas to encourage small businesses and farmer's markets.

"The type of community we live in plays a key role in enabling us to lead rich, sustainable lives. If municipalities keep this in mind when planning new developments, and citizens have a common vision for sustainability in their neighbourhoods, then we can have rewarding urban lifestyles." ■



Emily Huddart has found that there is less opportunity to be sustainable in the suburbs.

## laurels

**Janusz Zwiazek**, professor in the Department of Renewable Resources, received the prestigious Scientific Achievement Award at the XXIII World Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations in Seoul, South Korea, at the end of August. A tree physiologist, Zwiazek researches effects of pollution and other environmental stresses on function and structure of trees.

**Geneviève Gauthier** has been named associate director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Gauthier's research investigates how assessment can be used to diagnose and support learners in developing and fostering life-long learning skills and competencies. In

addition to her role as associate director, Gauthier will teach in the Department of Educational Psychology.

**Peter Light**, professor of pharmacology, has been selected as the director of the Alberta Diabetes Institute, and is the recipient of the Charles A. Allard Chair in Diabetes Research.

Former U of A chancellor **Eric Newell** has been inducted into the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame.

**Karim Jamal**, professor in the Alberta School of Business, has received the Haim Falk Award for Distinguished Contribution to Accounting Thought from the Canadian Academic Accounting Association.

**Jeff Bisanz**, professor in the Department of Psychology, was awarded the inaugural Pickering Award for his contributions to developmental psychology in Canada at the Development 2010 Conference.

**Onokome Okome**, professor in the Department of English and Film Studies, has received a Humboldt Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. These research awards allow scholars to work on their chosen research project in Germany.

**Ernie Ingles**, long-time chief librarian, has been named director of the School of Library and Information Studies for the U of A.

# talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on ExpressNews at: [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm). A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca). Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

## Until Sept. 30

**Observe the stars in September.** Visit the U of A's astronomical observatory every Thursday evening in September from 9–10 p.m. All members of the public are welcome and admission is free. Please see our website for details on how to find the observatory. 9–10 p.m. Fine Arts Building.

## Sept. 10, 13–17

**Brazil Week 2010**  
[www.arts.ualberta.ca/~spanport/brazil-week2010.html](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~spanport/brazil-week2010.html)

## Sept. 10

**Brazil Week 2010 – Samba de Enredo by Escola de Samba de Edmonton.** The Edmonton Samba School will be performing "Samba de Enredo" in the tradition of samba schools in Brazil. Samba de Enredo is the rhythm that propels the annual Carnival celebrations in Rio de Janeiro. 4–5:15 p.m. In front of Arts Building.

## Sept. 13

**"My Brazil."** This documentary film by Daniela Broitman shows community leaders from the slums of Rio de Janeiro putting their lives at risk to fight for basic services and journey to the Fifth World Social Forum. Featuring Lula, Hugo Chávez, Gilberto Gil, Eduardo Galeano, Frei Betto and Leonardo Boff. 4–6 p.m. Alberta School of Business, room 3–6.

## Sept. 14

**Ukrainians in Brazil.** This lecture by Andriy Nahachewsky, professor of Ukrainian folklore, will talk of how 400,000 people of Ukrainian descent live in Brazil, most of them in the southern state of Paraná, a region known as "Brazilian Ukraine." 4–6 p.m. Senate Chamber Arts and Convocation Hall.

## Sept. 10 & 11

**Envisioning Science: Imaging the Body.** Envisioning Science: Imaging the Body is an interdisciplinary workshop to examine how we see, how we are able, allowed, or made to see and how we see this seeing or the unseen therein. The workshop begins on Sept. 10 with a keynote address by Lise Cartwright, professor at the University of California-San Diego, entitled, "Critical Art Practice in the Age of Biological Citizenship. 7 p.m. 2-20 Fine Arts Building Gallery.

## Sept. 11

**SHINE Clinic's Annual Kick-off BBQ.** SHINE (Student Health Initiative for the Needs of Edmonton) is a health clinic run entirely by U of A students. It offers a variety of free services and resources to anybody under 25. The BBQ gives you a chance to learn more about what SHINE is all about, get a tour of the clinic and meet current volunteers. There will be free burgers, hot dogs, juice, coffee and more—everyone is welcome. Noon–4 p.m. at the Boyle McCauley Health Centre 10628 – 96 St.

## Sept. 12

**Panda's Hockey vs SAIT Trojans.** 2 p.m. Clare Drake Arena. For a full schedule of Golden Bear and Panda athletics go to [www.bears.ualberta.ca](http://www.bears.ualberta.ca)

## Sept. 14

**Mini Medical School.** Running every Tuesday for eight weeks, the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry is presenting this lecture series on topics from dentistry and surgery to nutrition and acupuncture. 7–9 p.m. Bernard Snell Hall. Go to [www.cpl.ualberta.ca/home/events/mini.cfm](http://www.cpl.ualberta.ca/home/events/mini.cfm) to register.

## Sept. 15

**SEE the research at work seminar series: Solar Energy.** Jillian Buriak, professor in the Department of Chemistry, will give a talk

about the greatest challenge facing humanity is the search for reliable—clean and scalable sources of energy. In this talk, Buriak will describe the energy horizon of solar, nuclear, legacy and other non-renewable as an introduction into research ongoing at the U of A and the National Institute for Nanotechnology into solar energy. Noon–1:30 p.m. Stollery Executive Development Centre, Alberta School of Business.

**Non-wives and their networks in medieval Tamilnadu, India.** The Department of History and Classics, co-sponsored by Women's Studies, presents "Non-Wives and their networks in medieval Tamil," by Leslie Orr, professor of religion, specializing in South Indian Tamil studies, Concordia University, Montreal. 3–5 p.m. Room 326 (Senate Chamber) Arts and Convocation Hall.

## Sept. 16

**Hindu Temples: Antiquity, Aesthetics and Conflict.** The Department of History and Classics presents "Hindu Temples: Antiquity, Aesthetics and Conflict," by Leslie Orr, professor of religion, specializing in South Indian Tamil studies, Concordia University, Montreal. 5–7 p.m. 1-5 Alberta School of Business.

## Sept. 21

**What's in a name: Why learning teamwork is as important for nurses as doctors.** Suzanne Gordon, author, lecturer, patient advocate and co-editor of "The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work Series," will be on hand to talk about the need for increased team communication between the health-care professions. Noon–1:30 p.m. Maple Leaf Room, Lister Centre.

## Sept. 22–26

**Alumni Weekend 2010.** Four days of receptions, reunions, lectures, tours and other events for all alumni. Hosted by the Alumni Association and U of A faculties. For more go to [www.ualberta.ca/alumni/reunion](http://www.ualberta.ca/alumni/reunion).

## Sept. 23

**Les enjeux de la francophonie.** This conference will be presented by Jean-Michel Lacroix, professor of North-American civilization at l'Université Paris III / Sorbonne Nouvelle and president of Association française d'études canadiennes. 7:30 p.m. Grand Salon Pavillon Lacerte.

## Sept. 24

**Campus Sustainability Tour.** Take a tour of North Campus to find out where and how the university is creating a sustainable campus. From students to faculty and staff to the wider community, everyone's welcome to join the free 1.5 hour walking tour. Spaces are limited. Please RSVP to secure your spot. It runs rain or shine. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 559 General Services Building.

**Department of Economics Micro Seminar.** Alberto Galasso, professor at the University of Toronto, will give a talk entitled "CEO Overconfidence and Innovation." 3:30 p.m. 8-22 Tory.

## Sept. 24

**Celebration of Teaching and Learning.** Each September, the U of A honours the achievements of our faculty, students and staff at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning. This year we will celebrate more than 300 exemplary individuals: faculty who bring their research to life in the classroom; graduate and undergraduate students who have distinguished themselves for outstanding academic work; and staff that support learning. 4:30–6:30 p.m. Aberhart Centre.

**Stephen Lewis Keynote Address.** Stephen Lewis, author of "Race Against Time" and chair of the Stephen Lewis Foundation—which is dedicated to turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa—will be giving a presentation after a wine and cheese reception as part of the Alberta Council for Global Co-operation's Annual General Meeting. This event will show-

case the incredible work being done by many Alberta-based organizations. 6–10 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall.

## Sept. 25

**Putting Economics back in the Home – The Failure of the Financial Industry in Teaching Canadians how to Handle their Money.** This discussion will talk about the failure of the financial industry in providing money-management education for Canadians. Register by Sept. 20. 10 a.m.–noon. 301 Human Ecology Building.

**Reinvigorating Democracy in Canada: Three Perspectives.** With voter turnout declining and regard for politicians plummeting, there is a growing sense that something has to be done to get democracy in Canada back on track. Panelists include Ricardo Acuña of the Parkland Institute, Satya Das, award-winning journalist and founder of Cambridge Strategies and Kim Krushell, Edmonton City Councillor. 12:30–2 p.m. Myer Horowitz Theatre, Students' Union Building.

## Sept. 25

**5th Annual Hurtig Lecture on the Future of Canada – Featuring Mary Simon.** Mary Simon, national leader of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Order of Canada recipient, will deliver the Fifth Annual Hurtig Lecture. Simon's distinguished career has been devoted to advancing Aboriginal rights and achieving social justice for Inuit and other Aboriginal peoples nationally and internationally. Simon argues that "for the lessons of history to have enduring value, awareness of past injustice must inspire determination to correct current injustice." Canada's future, Simon contends, will be measured "by how the Aboriginal peoples of this country are faring." Admission is \$10 per person. Register online at [www.ualberta.ca/alumni/weekend](http://www.ualberta.ca/alumni/weekend). 2:30–4 p.m. at Myer Horowitz Theatre, Students' Union Building.



Could not have  
done it without  
you

Fun, food and sustainability were in abundance  
at the President's Staff Appreciation Picnic Aug. 25.



Fern Snart, dean of the Faculty of Education, serves customers.



Indira Samarasekera, U of A president, shares a laugh with Russell Eccles, NASA president.



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